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Vision 2020 Committee Minutes 02/09/2005

VISION 2020 STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 9, 2005 MEETING

In attendance: Jane Howard, Gene Benson, Barry Faulkner, Andrew Fischer, Elizabeth Karpati, Leslie Mayer, Sherry Miller, Angela Olszewski.

- The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as presented.
- **Census survey:** 1563 replies have been received to date. Results are being entered, partly by volunteers from the groups which have questions in the survey. Comments will be categorized and entered separately. Many of the people who signed up to volunteer for Vision 2020 did not specify any task group. A “task group fair” with representatives from all the groups should be held for them.
- **Coming events:**
- Candidates’ Night: Some objections have been raised against the scheduled date, March 24, because it is Holy Thursday. But March 23 would conflict with “Day on the Hill” (a Beacon Hill event).
- Warrant Review scheduling awaits a response from John Worden.
- State of the Town will be on April 25, the first day of Town Meeting. Volunteers to provide refreshments are needed.
- State of the Schools: The School Committee passed a resolution that it should be on the same day as the State of the Town, but there isn’t enough time for both without delaying Town Meeting. Jeff Thielman of the School Committee is aware of the problem. A date closer to the debate on the school budget would be better.
- The high school principal expects to have a student representative to Vision 2020 before the end of the school year.
- We should present a list of projects – volunteer opportunities – for high school students, e.g.:
- The Rt. 2 path restoration project planned for May 14-15
- Setting up e-mail for Town Meeting members who don’t have it yet.
- **Sustainable Arlington** has a quartet of environmental policy interns from Tufts for the spring semester. They will help put the first three chapters of the draft action plan – energy efficiency, energy sourcing, and transportation – into shape and will help with the “social marketing” necessary to get people to accept it. SA will give a presentation on its plans to the Board of Selectmen on February 28.
- **Warrant articles:**
- The insurance committee has submitted a “placeholder” article aimed at getting the major insurance companies to provide information (aggregate data only) on the prevalence of chronic diseases, which pile up higher costs than the acute communicable ones which must be reported to the Board of Health by law.
- The Spy Pond Committee is submitting a warrant article asking again for funds to control invasive weeds. CDBG funds of \$15,000 are left over from last year; \$20,00 more will be needed. The committee goes before the Finance Committee on February 28.
- The Fiscal Resources Task Group is submitting an article for a study to look into the financial organization of the town (updating a 1999 study).
- **Symmes:** Negotiations on assuring a medical presence are continuing. The property has not yet been transferred to the developer. Rent from Lahey just about pays operating costs now. There is new state legislation, “40R,” which aims to concentrate development where infrastructure such as transportation already exists.